Amount collected for Gujarat earthquake victims

*467. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has collected huge amount to help the victims of Gujarat Earthquake;

(b) if so, what is the total amount so collected;

(c) whether the total amount so collected was transferred to PM's National Relief Fund;

(d) if not, why the State Government has not done it so far; and

(e) whether the Central Government would like to frame any policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had collected Rs. 12,54,14,724 towards the Kerala Chief Minister's Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund.

(c) No, Sir. The Government of Kerala has kept the amount in a separate account in the Public Account of the State in the Government Treasury.

(d) Out of the above, an amount of Rs. 3,39,24,806 has been spent so far. This includes the provision of Rs. 3.00 crore as first instalment of total sanction of Rs. 10.00 crore for reconstruction of Government Polytechnic at Bhuj. The Government of Kerala would release remaining amount to the Government of Gujarat after receipt of utilization report of the amount provided earlier. With regard to the construction of Bhuj Polytechnic, the Government of Gujarat has informed that after completing the procedural formalities, they had started construction from 21st June, 2004 and which is likely to be completed by January, 2006. An amount of Rs. 2,78,50,000 has already been spent and the Government of Gujarat has requested the Government of Kerala for release of the balance amount.

(e) The Government of India is considering the feasibility of enacting a legislation or of formulating guidelines to regulate the collection and utilization of funds raised for the purposes of providing relief and rehabilitation to the victims of natural and man made calamities.